

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
1430 E Street, N.W.  
Washington 25, D.C.

NIS CHAPTER IX MEMO NO. 13  
(REVISION)  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: NIS Chapter IX Contributors

SUBJECT : Large, medium, and small scales

1. There has been considerable confusion resulting from the lack of uniformity in the definition of large, medium, and small scales when referring to maps under various topics. For the purposes of Chapter IX and Section 19, it is suggested that the following definitions be assigned to these terms:

large scale -- 1:100,000 and larger

medium scale -- between 1:100,000 and 1:1,000,000

small scale -- 1:1,000,000 and smaller

2. It is recognized that topographic mapping presents a unique problem since it is Army practice to consider topographic maps in four scale ranges that overlap the three categories above and that differ from study to study depending upon the available maps. It is suggested therefore that generalizations in Chapter IX and Sections 19 concerning topographic maps be in terms of the numerical scale ranges.